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THE TRUE
PICTURE
OF AN
ILL. PRACTISER of the LAW.

THE TRUE
PICTURE
OF A
PRACTISER OF THE LAW.

THE TRUE — CF
PICTURE
OF AN
Ill Practiser
OF THE
LAW.
IN A

DIALOGUE between a SOLLICITOR
and his Intended CLIENT.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1703.

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THE TRUE
PICTURE

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JUN 15 1929

L. A. W.

IN A

Dialogue between a Solicitor
and his intended Client

LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1929

TO THE READER.

A great Blessing to this Nation; And do as hear-
thy will for the speedy Conversion of the Rest:
But if there be no Hopes left of Converting
them, (as tis hard to be sure) may some-
times Vengeance overtake them, to their bitter
Rebuke.

READER.

THE Design of these Sheets is not to Di-
vert thee with Flourishes of Rhetorick,
but to lay before thee Matter of Fact; hoping
this may awaken some Abler Pen, more amply and
accurately to Prosecute this Subject; that the Spi-
rits of People may be Rouzed to seek to our
Grave and Worthy Senators for Redress in so
Great and Publick a Calamity.

The Parliament in the Year 1653. had made
~~a good Progress in this Matter~~; and 'tis great
Pity so Pious a Design did not then succeed, but
hath slept ever since.

Reader, I would be understood to Reverence
our Laws as much as any Man, and to pay all
due Honour and Respect to our Judicious and
Pious Judges, and Honest Lawyers; and sin-
cerely Pray for their Increase and Prosperity, as

B

a great

To the READER.

a great Blessing to this Nation; And do as heartily wish for the speedy Conversion of the Rest: But if there be no Hopes left of Converting them, (as 'tis too much to be fear'd) may immediate Vengeance overtake them, to their Utter Extirpation.

If this be as well Taken as 'tis Meant, the World may be presented with something perhaps more Edifying.

VALE.

A D I A

At I find, indeed, in the quoted Text, That Legion
was the Name the Devil call'd himself by when he
first possess'd and was Taming a poor old Man.

But how came You parted to this Name?

Sol. Because I am his legitimate Child; and, in
Truth, never was Child of a Father: We are as

Namorous as He, and as violently Contend in the
same Delight of Tormenting Man. He is the Father
of all our Sins, and he is the Father of all our
ing Afflictions and Ruine on Mankind; He goeth

about like a Roaring Lion, seeking whom he may de-
vour. He was (as well as I) an Angel of Light,

but now a Child of Darkness, a Wolf in Sheep's
Clothing, and finally, One that would gladly de-
stroy the whole World together by the Fire. Now, Sir,

I dare be bold to say, That Thousands in England will
beat me Wonders, that in detesting my Father, I

have drawn my own Picture to the Life; with this
Difference only, I have Success in the Text you find
many Devils employ'd in Tormenting one Man, We

are arriv'd to that Perfection in Mischief, That one

Client. SIR, I want a Solicitor; and you, I think,
may do as well as another: Pray what's
your Name?

Solicitor. My Name, Sir, is Legion.

Cl. Whence had you that Name, I have not heard
of the Family?

Sol. 'Tis very Ancient; I had it from my Old Dad,
(the Tormentor of Mankind) as you may find it Re-
corded by St. Luke, in his Gospel, chap. vii.
ver. 30.

Cl. I find, indeed, in the quoted Text, That *Legion* was the Name the Devil call'd himself by, when he had Possess'd and was Torturing a poor distressed Man. But how came You intitl'd to this Name?

Soll. Because I am his Legitimate Child; and, in Truth, never was Child so like a Father: We are as Numerous as He, and as closely Combin'd in the same Delign of Tormenting Man. He is the Father of Lies, a Calumniator, One who delights in bringing Afflictions and Ruine on Mankind; He goeth about like a Roaring Lion, seeking whom he may devour. He was (as well as I) an Angel of Light, but now a Child of Darkness, a Wolf in Sheep's Cloathing, and finally, One that would gladly set the whole World together by the Ears. Now, Sir, I dare be bold to say, That Thousands in *England* will bear me Witness, That in describing my Father, I have drawn my own Picture to the Life; with this Difference only, That whereas in the Text you find many Devils employ'd in Tormenting one Man, We are arriv'd to that Perfection in Mischiefe, That one ~~K~~ish Lawyer can Torment and Ruine Hundreds of honest Men. You will easily believe then, that Hundreds, nay, Thousands of us linkt together, are likely enough to bring Confusion and Ruine to a whole Kingdom, by stopping the Source of Justice, and perverting the Laws; making Liberty and Property, whereon you so much rely, serviceable only to our Selves.

Cl. Mr. *Legion*, You seem by your bold insulting of our Laws and Liberties, to be some Clerk or Solicitor

Sollicitor in Ch---ry: Pray, Sir, are you of that Number?

Soll. I am: Equity, as the Matter now stands, is my best beloved Mistress, with whom I spend most of my Time, and with best Success; But if store of Iniquity was't to be found in her, Who as wou'd shou'd adore her for me. But pray, Sir, observe; We have in our Fraternity, Registers, Attorneys, Under-Sheriffs, Serjeants, Scriveners, Bayliffs, & al'; some of Higher, some of Lower Ranks: Also some Equity-Men, some Civilians, some Common Lawyers, zealously advancing the same Designs.

Cl. Thou seem'st a dangerous Fellow: Before I engage too far, I would gladly know some of your Principles.

Soll. In compliance with your Request, (though a very unusual thing amongst Us) I shall avow my Principles; viz.

I esteem Money as the *Summum Bonum*; so that if I can get Twenty Shillings, it matters not if another loses a hundred Pounds by't.

I hold That the Justest Cause, where there is Most Money: Therefore whether it be my Client, or Client's Adversary, 'tis all one to me. I take part with that Side where is greatest Plenty; but I hold it best where I can take Money with both Hands.

III. That

III.

That nothing is Evil that tends to my Profit or Pleasure, whether it be Whoring or Drunkenness; or That which is most to my Purpose, Delaying, Betraying, or Selling the Fatherless, Widows, and Oppressed.

IV.

That a Tender Heart, a Tender Conscience, Honour, and Justice are Destructive to the very Essence of L——rs; and therefore to be shun'd by them as the Plague.

V.

I don't like any of your Ten Commandments; But am positively perswaded, the Tenth was purposely put in by some Heretick, to spight me and fright me; For it contains Hard Sayings, Who can bear them? I am sure *Legion* nor none of his Tribe can. In short, Sir, a Lawyer that can be brought to believe that Commandment, is in a pitiful Plight.

VI.

That a Sunday is the best Day in the Week to Travel in, since I sha'n't be so often put out of my Road by Coaches, Waggon, Carts, and C—: For, you must know, 'tis Death to me to go out of my Road.

VII. I

VII.

I think Ours to be the Best Trade in the World; and do think Highway-Men and House-Breakers are Mad, that they don't all leave off their foolish Trade, and turn Sollicitors, their necessary Qualifications now a-days being only Lying, Impudence, and a Seared Conscience, which surely those Gentlemen can't be without: And then besides, Ours is more Gainful, Safe, and Reputable, whenas Theirs is Scandalous, Mean, and Dangerous. They run through innumerable Dangers, and hazard Life and All in a Retail Trade, for a Small Profit; When in Our Way they may Live without Disturbance in all Excess of Rioting and Wantonness, at their Clients Cost, and be caressed by those they undo; and may carry on a Wholesale Trade; that is, They may by Fraud and Violence take away Money, Plate, Jewels, Houses, Lands, and overturn whole Families, and gain and retain the Name of Honest Gentlemen too.

The only Objection I can see, is, Some Highway-Men, though they have abandon'd Honesty, yet they have some Honour cleaves to them: I confess the Objection has Force in it; for till they can free themselves from that Pernicious Errour, They are not fit for our Society; And if they were amongst us, they would Live and Die Beggars. Well then! Let them go with their Honour, and be Hang'd, whilst I Ride in my Coach.

Cl. For all your Vapouring, You are under great Restraints, and are not so Arbitrary as you pretend: Did you never hear of *Magna Charta*?

Soll. Yes; But little value it.

Cl. Ha! Why, does it not say, *No Man shall be taken, or imprison'd, or be disseiz'd, or outlaw'd, or exil'd, or any wise destroy'd or dealt with but by the Lawful Judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the Land: We shall Sell to no Man, Deny nor Defet to no Man either Justice or Right.*

A freeman shall not be Amerced for a small Offence, but after the Quantity of the Offence, and for a great Offence after the Manner thereof; Saving to him his freehold, And no Amerciament Assessed, but by the Oath of good and honest Men.

Soll. 'Tis true; But We don't regard all this: We can Imprison, Disseize, Destroy, Delay Suits by Injunctions, and what else we please, without Form of Law, by our own Arbitrary Authority.

Cl. How comes that to pass?

Soll. We Act by the Sovereign Conscience with which we are intrusted.

Cl. Has not the Abuse of that Sacred Conscience occasioned several good Laws to be made, to Govern and Restrain You? As that under the Title *Accusation*. Those that make Suggestion shall give Security to Pursue their Suggestions; and if they cannot prove the same, shall be imprison'd, there to abide till they have satisfied the Defendant for his Damages, and for the Slaun-

Slander, and shall also pay fine and Ran-
some unto the King, *Ann. 37. E. 3. cap. 18. Ann.*
38. E. 3. cap. 9. Again; No Subpoena shall be grant-
ed for Matters determinable by Common Law,
it being in Impediment and Subversion of the
Common Law. No Subpoena shall be granted
till Surety be found to satisfie the Defendant
his Damages and Expences, if the Matter
in the Bill can't be made good, *Ann. 15. H. 6.*
cap. 4. Again, under the Title of Justice and Right,
It shall not be Commanded under the Great
Seal or Little Seal to delay or disturb Com-
mon Right, *Ann. 2. E. 3. cap. 8.* And divers others
there are; which for Brevity sake I omit at this
Time?

Soll. True indeed; and Excellent Laws they are;
and, if duly Executed, would secure the Liberty,
Property, and Quiet of the Subject, and prevent ma-
ny Vexatious Suits, Irregular Prosecutions, Arbitrary
Imprisonments, &c. But, for my part, for these Rea-
sons I hate them; and, had we not a Trick to evade
them, We should be utterly Undone by them: So
that instead of Highway-Men turning Clerks or Sol-
licitors, We must turn Highway-Men our selves, for
We should have but little to do at our Trade.

Cl. I know you have more Tricks than a Dancing
Bear; But, pray, what Trick is this?

Soll. Our Power is grounded on the Prerogative
Royal, and is therefore Unlimited.

Cl. Is not every King and Queen of this Realm, on
their Coronation Oblig'd Solemnly to Promise and
C Swear

Swear to Govern the People of this Kingdom of England, and Dominions thereunto belonging, according to the Statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the Laws and Customs of the same? How came you then by an Unlimited Power?

Soll. We are not indeed to go Contrary to Law, (tho' sometimes perhaps we may strain a Point) but we can Dispense with, and Suspend the Laws.

Cl. Have you forgot that the Suspending and Dispensing Power was Exploded in the Late Reign; and that both Houses of Parliament, for the Vindicating and Asserting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, Declare, **That the Suspending of Laws, and Dispensing with Laws by Regal Authority, was Illegal:** And that 'twas Enacted into a Law, 1. W. and M. Seff. 2. cap. 2. And well agrees with the Statutes afore Recited, especially those of *Not Lightly Granting Subpoena's or Injunctions?*

Soll. This was to Restrain the King, not Us.

Cl. You are arriv'd to a Fine Height! Don't You know, That the Greatest Prince on Earth can't confer a more Absolute Power on any of his Ministers than Himself hath; according to that *Maxim* in our Laws, founded on Solid Reason, *Potestas Derivativa non potest esse major Primitiva*: Is Yours a Derived Power, or no?

Soll. Yes: But if any shou'd be so Hardy, as to Complain of the Injuries We do them; or so Inquisitive, as to Search into these Nice Matters; I promise you, We shou'd use Him very Scurvily, to Deter others from Vainly Prying into the Hidden Secrets
of

of our Great *Diana*: And let me tell you, Sir, You had better strike at a Bee, than at One of Us; for We are as Unanimous as They in Revenge, and Our Power of Hurting Greater: You'll soon find the whole Swarm of Us about You, with a Fury never to be Allwag'd, no, not with Money: And how Just soever your Causes are, We'll take Care you shall never have Right done You; and will Persecute You too, even to the Remotest Part of the Kingdom, with the vilest Clamours that Malice can invent. Think, Sir, what Mischief then, You are to Expect, who have made an Assault upon us All.

Cl. What, are You Angry? Have I touch'd You to the Quick? You shall be no Sollicitour of mine; I will lose my Coat, rather than look after my Cloak; I'll have none of your Equity——

But stay however; I have not yet done with You: A Word or two more before You go.

Soll. I think you have said a great deal too much already.

Cl. But hark a little! You said that you were Unanimous in Revenge?

Soll. I did say so: And You shall find it True to your Cost. For whoever you go to next, They will inquire who was your last Sollicitour; and being inform'd, will not fail to come to me, to know if you are free of your Money; or if your Adversary be Rich, and willing to Bribe well: Or whether You be Ignorant and Negligent in your Affairs, Relying entirely with an Implicite Faith on your Sollicitour, and easie to be led by the Nose; Or One that dili-

gently informs your self of the Strength and Weakness of your Causes, and are careful to know what Progress your Agents make in your Affairs; and when abused, whether you take it Patiently or Impatiently; Sit still, or seek to Right your self? I shall so answer to these Interrogatories, That either you shall not get any one that will be concern'd for you; or else it shall be such an one as will betray you.

Cl. I well know all this; But am amazed to hear Truth come out of your Mouth; and Thank you for it: *Fore-marr'd, Fore-arm'd*, is an old Proverb.

Soll. Keep your Thanks to your self till I merit them; Had it been possible for you to have avoided the Mischief I will do you, I never would have told You.

Cl. Though there are too many Base Pretenders to your Profession, I don't doubt of meeting with One of Honest Principles, over whom You can have no Influence.

Soll. You may assoon meet with a Black Swan; But grant there is One, and that You shou'd meet with Him too; Yet, before ever he looks over your Papers, He will come to me (though I were worse than I am, if 'twere possible) and I will tell him your Causes are Villanous and Unjust; That your Adversaries are very Honest Gentlemen: That you are guilty of more Crimes than e'er were committed in Tyre and Zidon; And will name some of your Adversary's Villanies, and charge them on You.

Cl. This is Fine Work! But are not you known to be a Lyar and a Slanderer?

Soll.

Soll. Yes, But Being a Brother of the Quill, I shall be believed before you; however to put the matter out of doubt and to secure my own Credit, I have many that will swear to what I say be it right or wrong, and some honest Men too, in the Opinion of the World; For I have an Art to make Black appear White, and to make White appear Black, and can perswade Men out of their Sences. In Fine, after your Honest Lawyer has been with me, 'tis a Thousand to One whether ever he will look over your Papers; but without giving any Reason for it, will leave you to shift for your self. But suppose he should not believe me, and go on with your Causes, I would endeavour to have the Court possessed with an Opinion that you are a very ill Man, and Letigious, and so should disappoint you one way or other.

Cl. Why is it a Fault to be Letigious?

Soll. Yes, With the Officers and Practicers, how much soever you are abused by them; But quarrel as much as you will amongst your selves, the more Mischief the better Sport.

Cl. I know 'tis your method to rail against those you oppress, And to multiply Injuries on them, to confound both their Brains and their Purses, thereby to disable them from helping themselves, and to amuse others that would help them; and that to secure your selves you

em-

employ your Skill to give the Courts an ill Opinion of them: And indeed you have been too successful herein, the more is the Pity. 'Tis sad to think such a Practice should be suffered which had its Rise from Hell. We find it practised of old against the most Holy and Innocent Person that e're was in the World, I mean our dearest Lord the Blessed *Jesus*, who could not escape the Calumny of those who unjustly persecuted Him; They Railingly said he was a Glutton, a Wine-Bibber, a Deceiver, a Friend to *Publicans* and *Sinners*, and an Enemy to *Caesar*; Nay, a Confederate with Hell it self, saying, He cast out Devils by *Belzebub* the Prince of Devils, and whatever malice could invent. In Truth this Method was and is used to pervert Justice and Judgment, to oppress the Innocent and Needy.

Soll. Insolent Slave! Bold to thy own Ruine; hold thy Peace or thou shalt feel my Power.

Cl. Tyrant! I do little fear your mighty Threats, that I proclaim open War again you.

Soll. Hold, my Friend! for all my Talk, whoever falls out, you and I will live in Peace.

Cl. Peace! What Peace? So long as the Whoredoms of thy Mother *Jezebel* and her Witchcrafts are so many? What Peace? So long as the good Laws made for our Safety and Comfort, are abused by you to our Ruine; Liberty

erty and Property ridiculed and invaded at your Pleasure; The Fatherless, Widows and Afflicted, mock'd, sold, and oppress'd by your Artifices; by which you have armed Heaven's Justice against you, And methinks I hear an Angel crying aloud (as against *Israel* of old for the like Crimes) shall not my Soul be avenged on such Miscreants as these? Come, *Legion*, let me tell you, your great Pride and Bare Faced Injustice are good Omens of your speedy Down-fall.

Soll. Thank my Stars, Thou art no Prophet, neither the Son of a Prophet.

Cl. I may predict right however. 'Tis recorded in our Histories, That the Popish Clergy in this Nation in the Days of King *Henry* the Eighth had arrived to a very great Height of Pride, Insolence, and Barbarous Cruelty; and had usurp'd an Arbitrary Authority, and exercised it with such Tyranny, that it became a Cause of the Happy Reformation began in that Reign. A Second was, the Avarice of that degenerate Clergy was such, that they had by Fraud and Craft not only heap'd together a vast Treasure in Money and Jewels, but also had ingross'd to themselves mighty Possessions in Lands and Houses, by which means the Laity were so enslaved and impoverish'd 'twas no longer to be born; and so visible Ruine attended the Commonwealth,

wealth, that it laid a Necessity on the Govern-
ment to seek a Remedy; And since one Mem-
ber of the Commonwealth was tumified to a
prodigious Bigness, 'twas not enough to stop the
growing Evil, but this Member must immedi-
ately for the Health of the rest of the Body, by
some powerful Application, be reduced to a pro-
portionable and natural Size, which being done
there ensued a blessed Reformation in the
Church; And this mighty Wealth being distri-
buted amongst the Laity was the Cause also of
a prosperous State, not immediately indeed, but
under the Reign of a Queen, *Elizabeth*, of Blef-
sed and Glorious Memory, the Finisher of this
great Work.

Soll. From a Prophet you are turn'd an Hi-
storian.

Cl. Have a little Patience, *Legion*, and you will
find me again prefaging a Period to your turbu-
lent and wicked Reign, from a Parity of Rea-
son; for let me tell you, there is the same Causes
now strongly inforcing a Necessity upon the
State, to reform the evil Practicers in the Law,
as there was then to reform the Clergy: *viz.*
There are now many ill Practicers both in the
Law and Equity, who are altogether as proud,
insolent, cruel, arbitrary and unjust in their u-
surp'd Authority, as the Clergy were then, and
have by Fraud, Craft, and open Violence, got
at

at least as great a part of our Money and Estates in their Hands as the Clergy had in those days, and are eagerly grasping at all the rest; And then 'tis to be considered that these are more numerous than those were, and more prolific too, so that the vast Numbers of their young Generation of Vipers, now coming on the Stage, is so amazing, that the Thoughts of it almost puts me into a Convulsion; Sure I am, that when these are full grown, and have bred again they will put the State into one, if not timely prevented. And as their Numbers are great and encreasing, so is their Power too. But as that glorious Reformation in our Church was brought to Perfection by an Excellent and Victorious Queen; Why may we not believe and hope that Heaven has reserved the like Blessing and Honour of Reforming the State to our present no less Excellent nor less Victorious, Princess Queen *Anne*, whose unparalleled Wisdom and matchless Zeal for the good of her People gives us comfortable Expectations and even Assurance of some happy Product.

Soll. Don't flatter your self, for how well soever the Queen may love you; There's the Stamp-Office in the way. Come, Sir, the worse the Practicers are, the more vexatious Suits will be commenced and delay'd, and consequently the greater will be the Queen's Revenue by the Stamps.

D

Cl.

Cl. Thanks be to Heaven we have a Queen, that values the Repose and Happiness of her Subjects above any Branch of her Revenue; But were you dealt withal according to your Desert, and made to disgorge the ill gotten Wealth you have swallowed, as the Clergy of Old did, 'twou'd take off the Force of your Objection; But there is no Fear that the Stamp Revenue should be lessened by your being reformed, for if there were a nearer and less expensive and more certain Access to Justice; (you having with your Legerdemain Tricks so ruffled every ones Affairs,) plenty of Complainants wou'd come in to be set to Rights, and innumerable Applications would be made for Justice against many of you, which would take up an Age to determinethem in. And I dare undertake, that whenever the Government pleases to lay Hands on you, an ample Recompence shall be made to the Crown for lessening the Revenue arising by the Stamps.

Soll. I am safe still, for this great Work can't be done without the Lawyers Help; And you may be assured we shall not clip our own Wings.

Cl. When the Blessed Reformation was made in our Church, amongst great Numbers of ill Clergymen, some good were found, who set their Hands to, and assisted in that great Work. And I am confident we may now find a Competent

tent Number of Pious Gentlemen (whose Hearts God has touch'd with a Sense of the Afflictions of their Brethren of the Commonwealth,) who would chearfully set their Hands to so good a Work. But from Sollicitours, Clerks, Registers, Attorneys &c. Good Lord deliver us.

R. B. C.
6/14/29

FINIS.
